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Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 26, 27, 36-39, and 41-49.

Independent claims 23, 33, and 69 remain pending in the application. Each of these independent claims has been rejections based on the disclosures of Reed, US Patent 4,567,710. Although the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 23, 33, and 69, the Applicant has amended these claims in this amendment to clarify the significant differences between the claimed invention and the prior art disclosed in Reed. Each of claims 23, 33, and 69 recite a structure of the outer muntin grid element that is novel and unobvious over the disclosures of Reed.

Figs. 13 and 14 of Reed disclose plastic connectors (9) used to secure the longitudinal edges of the Reed I-beams to the inner surface of the glass. The Reed plastic connectors (9) do not, in any Reed embodiment, surround the entire I-beam and are not formed in continuous tubes. In all of the Reed embodiments, the main web (34) of the Reed I-beam is always visible. The Reed connectors (9) never hide the main web (34).

To the contrary, each of the pending independent claims recites an outer muntin grid element structure that hides the entire inner muntin grid element about which it is disposed. Hiding the inner muntin grid element is an important aspect of the invention because the invention allows the inner muntin grid element s to be roughly formed and unpainted because they are hidden from view.

The Applicant has amended claim 23 to specify that the outer muntin grid element surrounds a length of the inner muntin grid element to hide both the longitudinal edges and longitudinal sides of that length of the inner muntin grid element from view on both sides of the insulating glazing unit. Reed does not surround the longitudinal sides of any portion of the Reed I-beam. Reed thus does not anticipate claim 23 and does not suggest the configuration recited in claim 23.

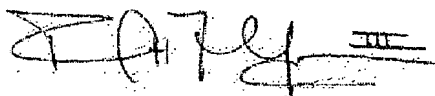
Claims 33 and 69 require the outer muntin grid elements to be in the form of tubes. The claim has been amended to recite that the tube surrounds the longitudinal

edges and longitudinal sides of the inner muntin bar elements. Reed does not disclose such tubes. As noted above, the Reed reference only discloses connectors that cover the edges of the I-beams. The sides of the I-beam are never surrounded with the Reed connectors. Claims 33 and 69 and its dependent claims are thus patentable over Reed.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowance for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

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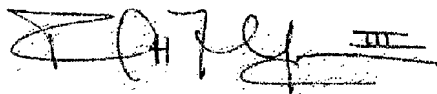
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted via facsimile on October 3, 2007.



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